



Trevor Brown, Russellville ATC and Shane Day, Russell ATC each awarded \$500 Scholarship

***Sponsored by Frank and LaDondra Cercone
Bluegrass Educational Technologies, LLC***

It was a first for SkillsUSA KY members...the opportunity to apply for a \$500 educational scholarship sponsored by Bluegrass Educational Technologies. Why? Educational Consultant LaDondra Meredith-Cercone was in VICA (SkillsUSA) during high school, served as a state officer, and along with husband Frank now serve as SkillsUSA KY alumni members. As a result of this connection, this year, two SkillsUSA KY high school seniors became recipients of the first two Bluegrass Educational Technologies Scholarships. KUDOS to the Cercone's.

Shane Day, Russell ATC receives \$500 Bluegrass Educational Technologies Scholarship

Shane Day is a drafting student under the direction of Russell ATC instructor Shawn Parsons. He plans to enroll in the pre-engineering program at the Ashland Community and Technical College (ACTC) and finish with an engineering degree from Marshall University. He has been accepted at ACTC for the 2014 fall semester.

Day is an Eagle Scout, Black Belt in Chun Kuk Do, Air Force ROTC Cadet 1st Lieutenant and Operations Officer, and serves as the Russell ATC SkillsUSA local club president.

According to Day, "Service and leadership have been my guide throughout life. Every action I make is to better myself, and my community."



Trevor Brown, Russellville ATC receives \$500 Bluegrass Educational Technologies Scholarship

Brown:

"I am absolutely grateful for Frank and LaDondra Cercone, and Bluegrass Educational Technologies, LLC. The scholarship they have provided me will assist me without a doubt in respects to my books, room and board expenses while attending Western Kentucky University. This contribution will have greater impact in the years to come, as I start my career as a Computer Engineer."



Melissa Jones, 2014 Secondary SkillsUSA KY Advisor of the Year Russellville Area Technology Center:

"It is so nice to see former SkillsUSA members giving back to the organization. It speaks volumes to the impact that SkillsUSA has made on Mrs. Cercone to the point of her husband seeing that impact in the business leader she is now. As an advisor of a student who was chosen to receive a scholarship provided by Bluegrass Educational Technologies, LLC, I am grateful for their generosity."

As a high school senior, Trevor Brown was elected president of the Senior Class, Student Council, FBLA and the Beta Club. He serves as co-president of STLP. While a junior, he served as vice-president of his local SkillsUSA chapter.

He believes student organizations have helped him "grow as a leader, as well as a well-rounded human being."

Giving back ... Setting an example for others to follow

Frank and LaDondra Cercone hold SkillsUSA KY near and dear because LaDondra served as a state officer in 1990 under state director Holly Chilton. Over the past several years, Frank has been involved in supporting the Robotics and Mobile Robotics competitions at the SkillsUSA KY state conference - including the donation of prizes. This year they also sponsored two \$500 scholarships to help SkillsUSA KY members continue into a postsecondary education.

“SkillsUSA fosters the success of exceptional students who will one day drive the American economy as employers and employees in skilled trades careers,” said Frank and LaDondra. “We believe it is imperative for us to support these young men and women as they begin training for those achievements.”

As the SkillsUSA KY organization becomes larger and touches more students, Alumni efforts have become increasingly more important and the Cercone’s understand the value of giving back. They are now serving as members of the newly formed SkillsUSA KY Alumni-Partnership Council.



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Photos courtesy of Tim Thornberry*

According to the company’s website, “Bluegrass Educational Technologies is the top purveyor of high-quality training materials and equipment for traditional and emergent technology programs ... Bluegrass Educational Technologies, LLC provides curriculum, equipment, and services to technical education instructors.”